

**A. (:5-8) MAN WAS CREATED TO HAVE DOMINION OVER THE EARTH (GENESIS 1:26-28)**

1. Man Was Made In God's Image & Likeness (:27)
  - a. ≠ Appearance, but character/nature
  - b. Man was created to resemble God in character/nature
    - 1) righteousness, holiness, love, patience, kindness, forgiveness, faithfulness
2. Man Was Also Created To Rule Over All The Creatures Of The Earth (:26b)
  - a. Rule & authority carry w/them responsibility
  - b. To rule "in God's image & likeness" is to rule w/loving care & concern
3. God Told Man To Populate The Earth & Take Charge Of It (:28)
  - a. That was God's Design (:8) But...

**B. MAN'S NATURE NO LONGER RESEMBLES GOD'S NATURE**

1. Man Has A Sinful Nature
  - a. The N.T. labels man's nature, "selfish ambition"
    - 1) Galatians 5:20 - *idolatry & witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions.*
    - 2) James 3:16 - *For where you have envy & selfish ambition, there you find disorder & every evil practice.*
    - 3) Philippians 2:3 - *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.*
2. Man Has Abused The Act Of Procreation
  - a. Sex has become entertainment - like playing golf or watching a movie
  - b. And so we have rampant STDs, unwanted pregnancies & abortions
3. Man Has Practiced Poor Stewardship Over The Creatures Of The Earth
  - a. Look at what happened to the buffalo,
    - 1) killed by the thousands just cuz they were there w/no regard for stewardship / respect for creation
  - b. In Japan they're doing the same thing with whales
4. Man Has Wasted The Natural Resources Given Him
  - b. We're burning up all the oil, polluting the water & the air & burning a hole in the ozone layer
    - 1) the real problem behind that is the careless attitude, selfish ambition
5. Man Was Supposed To Exercise Loving Care For The Earth & The Creatures On It.
  - a. It was, literally, a Garden of Eden for us to care for & enjoy.
  - b. But 'cuz of rebellion & sin, that's not what we see.

**C. :9a 'BECAUSE JESUS LIVED AS ALL MEN WERE INTENDED TO LIVE - IN THE IMAGE & LIKENESS OF GOD'S NATURE - WE CAN HAVE A RESTORED, PROPER RELATIONSHIP W/ GOD NOW & W/THE EARTH IN THE FUTURE KINGDOM.**

1. In Jesus, God Became "a Little Lower....", i.e. Became A Man & Lived Out God's Very Nature
  - a. And 'cuz of that we can reclaim the qualities of God's character & nature
    - 1) Ephesians 4:24 says that in Jesus we can; "*put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness & holiness.*"
    - 2) Colossians 3:10 says that in Jesus we can; "*put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*"

- c. 'cuz of Jesus we can stop living by selfish ambition & reclaim the love, patience, kindness, forgiveness & faithfulness that were part of our original nature when God created us. (cf: fruit of the spirit in Galatians 5)

## 2. This Is All (Only) Possible 'Cuz "He Suffered Death..." :9b

- a. He lived as man was created to live; the way God intended all men to live
- b. And He tasted for everyone, so that everyone who comes to Him might taste life
  - 1) God never intended man to die, but man brought it on himself through sin & rebellion
  - 2) But, 'cuz God loves you, even in your sin, He sent His perfect, sinless Son to die in your place
- c. His love & acceptance have only one condition: that you believe Him / trust / put your faith in Him